

Preparing for our Graduate Program

The majority of applicants applying to our General program have a BA or BS in Psychology. ABA program applicants generally have a BA or BS in Psychology or a related field, such as Child Development, Speech Pathology, or Education.

Please see the specific prerequisite coursework requirements for each of our graduate programs below.

General Program Preparation

Statistics and Method. At a 4-year college, all applicants must have completed two (2) upper division statistics/methods courses with grades of C or better prior to applying to the program. This requirement is met with PSYC 121 and PSYC 102 at Sacramento State, or their equivalents at other universities. Course equivalents must have included research methods in which students have analyzed a dataset and written an APA-style paper. They must also have included descriptive and complex inferential statistics, such as factorial ANOVAs, mixed model ANOVAs, ANCOVAs, MANOVAS, planned and unplanned comparisons, factorial analysis, and multiple regression. Courses without these elements will not be approved.

Lower Division Preparation. The following courses may be taken at a community college or 4-year university: Introductory Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 2); Methods of Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 8); and Statistics for Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 9).

Upper Division Preparation. Applicants must take five Psychology courses at a 4-year university such as: Perception (Sac State: PSYC 103); Cognitive Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 110); Social Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 145); Abnormal Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 168); Developmental Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 148, PSYC 149, or PSYC 150); etc.

ABA Program Preparation

Lower Division Preparation. Methods of Psychology (Sac State: PSYC 8) which may be taken at a community college or 4-year university.

Upper Division Preparation. We recommend that all ABA applicants have course work in Applied Behavior Analysis prior to applying to the program. This could be achieved by taking PSYC 171 at Sacramento State, or an equivalent at another 4-year college or university. Applicants without Applied Behavior Analysis coursework will still be considered, but may be asked to take PSYC 171 during their first year of graduate school.

Note: We do not pre-review student transcripts. Please check your transcripts against this list of course work to determine if you still wish to apply.